



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 669

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Bill No. 5592

House of Representatives, April 17, 2008

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the 2008 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
5 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
6 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for
7 eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school
8 or a former priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this
9 subsection, (B) in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked
10 in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision
11 (26) of section 10-262f of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes,
12 whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to
13 section 10-266p of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, or (C) in
14 a town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
15 subdivision, as provided for in said subdivision (2). A town in which a

16 priority school is located, a regional school readiness council, pursuant
17 to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is
18 located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision
19 may apply for such a grant in an amount not to exceed [one hundred
20 seven] two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars per priority school
21 or town. Grant recipients may receive a grant for one or more spaces in
22 accredited school readiness programs. Eligibility shall be determined
23 for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as having a
24 priority school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
25 subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be
26 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
27 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
28 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school
29 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of
30 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department
31 of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the
32 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by
33 regional school readiness councils and may, within available
34 appropriations, provide a grant in excess of [one hundred seven] two
35 hundred twenty-five thousand dollars to [towns with two or more
36 priority schools in such district] any town eligible for a competitive
37 grant pursuant to this subsection. A town or regional school readiness
38 council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds
39 to purchase spaces for such children from providers of accredited
40 school readiness programs.

41 (2) (A) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a
42 town received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
43 and is no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive
44 a phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
45 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
46 this subsection.

47 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
48 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
49 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in

50 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
51 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
52 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
53 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
54 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
55 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
56 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
57 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following
58 the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
59 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
60 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the
61 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
62 this subsection.

63 Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-145b of the
64 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
65 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

66 (c) (1) The State Board of Education, upon request of a local or
67 regional board of education, shall issue a temporary ninety-day
68 certificate to any applicant in the certification endorsement areas of
69 elementary education, middle grades education, secondary academic
70 subjects, special subjects or fields, special education, early childhood
71 education and administration and supervision when the following
72 conditions are met:

73 (A) The employing agent of a board of education makes a written
74 request for the issuance of such certificate and attests to the existence
75 of a special plan for supervision of temporary ninety-day certificate
76 holders;

77 (B) The applicant meets the following requirements, except as
78 otherwise provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision:

79 (i) Holds a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education
80 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or
81 regionally accredited with a major either in or closely related to the

82 certification endorsement area in which the requesting board of
 83 education is placing the applicant or, in the case of secondary or
 84 special subject or field endorsement area, possesses at least the
 85 minimum total number of semester hours of credit required for the
 86 content area;

87 (ii) Has met the requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of section
 88 10-145f;

89 (iii) Presents a written application on such forms as the
 90 Commissioner of Education shall prescribe;

91 (iv) Has successfully completed a program of classroom
 92 management and instructional methodology approved by the State
 93 Board of Education and, within available appropriations, provided
 94 under contract with an institution of higher education designated by
 95 the Department of Higher Education;

96 (v) Possesses an undergraduate college overall grade point average
 97 of at least "B" or, if the applicant has completed at least twenty-four
 98 hours of graduate credit, possesses a graduate grade point average of
 99 at least "B"; and

100 (vi) Presents supporting evidence of appropriate experience
 101 working with children; and

102 (C) The Commissioner of Education may waive the requirements of
 103 subparagraphs (B)(v) or (B)(vi), or both, of this subdivision upon a
 104 showing of good cause.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-16p(d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-145b(c)(1)

ED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Implements the Budget	900,000	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill increases the grant amount from \$107,000 to \$225,000, that an eligible town or city may receive to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs. The bill allows grants to be given for one or more spaces in an accredited school readiness program. Additionally, the bill allows for grants to be given in excess of \$225,000 for any town eligible for a competitive school readiness grant.

In FY 09, there are 52 districts eligible to receive school readiness grants, up from 44 eligible districts in FY 08.

sHB 5021, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, includes \$900,000, in FY 09, for the purposes of increasing the amount of school readiness grants. The amount included in FY 10 is dependent upon future appropriations.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to increases in the school readiness

grant.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5592*****AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from \$107,000 to \$225,000, the maximum school readiness competitive grant a town or school readiness council can apply for per priority school or town. It allows grant recipients to receive a grant for one or more spaces in accredited school readiness programs. It also allows the education commissioner to provide grants in excess of the maximum grant amount to any town eligible for the competitive grant. Under current law, the commissioner can do so only for towns with at least two priority schools in their districts.

The bill also allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to issue a temporary 90-day teaching certificate in the early childhood education endorsement area at a board of education's request. SBE can already do this for elementary education, middle grades education, secondary academic subjects or fields, special education, and administration and supervision endorsement areas. The existing conditions must be met for the issuance of the endorsement (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008 for the grant provision; upon passage for the temporary certificate provision.

BACKGROUND***Conditions for the 90-day Temporary Teaching Certificate***

The employing agent of a board of education must make a written request for the issuance of the certificate and attest to the existence of a special plan for supervision of the certificate holders and the applicant must:

1. hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited higher education

institution with a major in, or closely related to, the certification endorsement area or, in the case of secondary or special subject or field endorsement area, possess at least the minimum total number of semester hours of credit required for the content area;

2. have met the applicable testing requirements;
3. present a written application on education commissioner-prescribed forms;
4. have successfully completed a SBE-approved program of classroom management and instructional methodology provided under contract with a Department of Higher Education-designated higher education institution;
5. possess an undergraduate college overall grade point average of at least "B" or, if the applicant has completed at least 24 hours of graduate credit, possess a graduate grade point average of at least "B"; and
6. present supporting evidence of appropriate experience working with children.

The education commissioner may waive either or both of the last two requirements upon a showing of good cause.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/14/2008)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 54 Nay 0 (03/28/2008)